

REMARKS

Claims 12-18 have been withdrawn without prejudice, to the filing a divisional application.

Claim 1-11 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-3 have been amended without prejudice.

The statement of government interest on the first page of the specification has been amended to correct the Department of Energy Contract Number. No new matter has been added.

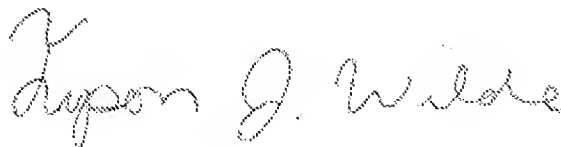
The Office rejected claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention, specifically the office stated that the applicants should clarify the magnetic structure of the element in order to provide relative magnetic permeability. Accordingly, the applicants have amended claims 2 and 3 to replace the term “element” with “plurality of ductile, generally U-shaped electrically conductive leaves.” Since a plurality of electrically conductive leaves has a magnetic structure, the applicants believe that amended claims 2 and 3 are now definite and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The Office rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Fredrickson [US 2,947,960]. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include that an insulated continuous generally circular electrical conductor is disposed within the generally circular trough. This is not disclosed or taught by Fredrickson but rather Fredrickson teaches that an annular core should comprise slits of electrically insulating material to eliminate a circulating current within the annular core. See column 2, lines 19-36. Since an insulated continuous generally circular electrical conductor performs a different function and has a different structure than the annular core described by Fredrickson, the Applicants respectfully submit that now amended claim 1 is allowable over Fredrickson.

Since amended claim 1 is now allowable and claims 2-11 depend from allowable amended base claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-11 are now allowable.

It is believed that there are no fees due at this time. However, as authorized in the communication filed on May 4, 2004, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact Jeffery E. Daly at 832-681-8623.

Respectfully submitted,



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